

# CARLTON SCROOP AND NORMANTON ON CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

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## **CARLTON SCROOP AND NORMANTON ON CLIFFE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**MONDAY 11 MAY 2026 AT 6.30PM**

**CARLTON SCROOP AND NORMANTON ON CLIFFE VILLAGE HALL**

Draft Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

*Jackie Britten-Crooks* Clerk to the Parish Council.

Councillor Alan Thomas Chaired the meeting by virtue of his office as Chairman of the Parish Council.

Meeting commenced at 6.32pm. 9 members of the public were in attendance.

### **1. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

I reluctantly accepted the nomination to continue as Chair of the Parish Council (PC) for 2025/26 and Jo Worrell was appointed Vice-Chair. The PC has been quite busy during the year.

The 2 existing defibrillators and cabinets have been replaced in Honnington and Charity Street, Carlton Scroop and a new defibrillator and cabinet has been installed on the external wall at the village hall. The bus shelter roof opposite Newark Lane has been replaced.

The PC appointed new contractors for grass cutting and dog bin emptying for 2025/26 and, despite a few initial hiccups, the services have worked well and have been renewed for 2026/27.

The PC cemetery has been maintained to a high standard during the year with burial plots being re-numbered and new burial plot markers installed. A new interment took place during the year. A special thank you to David Balfe for cutting the cemetery grass free of charge during the year.

The Jubilee Field has also been maintained to a high standard during the year. The hedge has been cut and the grass cut by the same contractor. The dog bin has been re-located due to people depositing general waste in the bin whilst driving past.

There have been numerous highway issues in the parish during the year, which have been discussed with the County Council. Speeding is ongoing and the PC has constantly asked the County Council to renew the speed signs in Normanton which have not been working consistently for over a year. The mobile speed indicator device (SID) has been deployed throughout the parish during the year. The PC has complained about risks involved with the heavy vehicles taking on the double bends in Normanton and the south of Carlton Scroop. Also, heavy vehicles from the recycling plant are taking a short cut through the Sudbrook Road from the A607 to the A153.

The PC has continued to ask the County Council to install a footpath between Carlton Scroop and Normanton and also Carlton Scroop and Honnington.

Thank you to County Councillor Ken Banford for attending all of the PC meetings since his election and helping to resolve issues in the parish.

The PC has introduced a Parish Plan through to 2027 and most of the objectives have been achieved.

The PC felt it necessary to request an increase of £400 to the precept in 2026/27 to cover additional costs of maintaining and improving the parish in the coming year.

On Saturday 9 May 14 residents and 4 parish councillors turned out for the Big Parish Spring Clean. A great deal of work was undertaken in a 2-hour slot which sets the Parish Council up for the summer. Thank you to everyone who turned up to help.

The planning application for a permanent traveller pitch at 1A The Lodges Carlton Scroop, refused by the District Council, has now been approved by an independent planning inspector, subject to certain conditions. Decision Notice to be added to the PC website.

It was disappointing to note that that councillor David Balfe recently resigned from the PC due to personal reasons. We would all like to thank David for his valued contribution to the Parish over many years. The PC will, hopefully appoint a co-opted member at its meeting later this evening.

I would like to thank my fellow councillors and the parish clerk for their valued support during the year.

Finally, it is very sad to say farewell to our existing parish clerk Florence Hill, thank you so much for all your hard work during the last year and good luck with your travels around Europe. We have been fortunate to appoint our new clerk, Jackie Britten-Crooks, who is with us this evening.

I can assure you that the Parish Council is in safe hands going forward into the new municipal year.

Alan Thomas

Chair, Carlton Scroop & Normanton on Cliffe Parish Council

## **2. APOLOGIES**

Councillor Edward Hands. County Councillor Ken Bamford

## **3. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2025**

Approved.

## **4. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS BY VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS**

### **Carlton Scroop and Normanton-on-Cliffe Village Hall Trustees' Annual Report - Financial Year 2025 - 2026**

This last year has seen a number of changes to the committee, along with exciting changes to the hall itself, greatly improving the prospects to further increase the range of events we can host. There is also a significant and positive change in our link with the Social Club which I describe below.

Whilst we have had the resignation from the committee of long term stalwart Richard Rainthorpe, whose work, support and input we greatly acknowledge and thank for his years of service, two new members, Andrew Empson and Sallyanne Mayes have joined us, joining existing members Sarajane Sheard and Dave Parker.

Mark and Susie Watson have also joined the committee as part of a planned integration of the Village Hall and Social Club management into one committee.

Whilst we are still working out the logistics of this change in line with both groups existing founding guidelines, rules of operation, financial reporting requirements and Charitable trust regulations etc, in principle the integration is proceeding so that we have a joined up and cohesive plan and support

network for all of the hall's operations and management. I think this change can only benefit the way the hall is run effectively as one entity with common goals and purpose and only formalises the great working relationship we have had in recent years.

We also welcome Robert McPhail as a new trustee, taking the place of Richard. The trustees are now, Robert, Mark Watson and myself.

We would also like to thank other village members who have helped us during the year including Richard Harris for his strimming and painting, Fineturf for the grass mowing, Jack and Harry Baines for the hedge trimming and Alan Thomas for his general support and advice and Sandy for amongst other things, her decorating. I apologise for anyone who I have missed.

I should not fail to mention the close relationship we have with the Community Charity and in particular the Hub events with members of the VH committee participating with Daniel Sheard. An ongoing event we are happy to support along with the Book Exchange.

As always, I'd like to thank Daniel for his continued support (with Sarajane) as our "caterer-in-chief" on so many events.

This last year we have held a number of regular events including the Pork and Cider Night, the Comedy show, plus our "inaugural" Mid-Summer BBQ. This year we are repeating these events along with another Table Top sale, a classic car concourse and a Magic Show. Work is also underway to look at hosting film nights, art and crafts shows and maybe some musical performances.

Now, it should be recognised that these exciting new plans are only made possible and feasible due in no small part to the generosity of Andrew Empson and Michele Doardo who have put so much effort into the refurbishment project that you see signs of around you including a spruced up foyer and corridor lighting, new curtains, and the remodelled stage and staging to name but a few. Lindsey Johnston also gets a big shout out here for her wonderful painting now featured in the foyer. Even more significantly is the ongoing installation of theatre grade sound system and lighting which we look forward to premiering soon. Items which Andrew has kindly lent in trust to us.

These rejuvenations, sound and light system enhancements plus our new café tables we hope will make our events so much more entertaining plus make us **the** local "place to come to" for weddings, parties and other external bookings.

Financially, we are still in a healthy place and whilst expenditure exceeded income (circa £640) the difference we feel was worth it for the great changes made and that continue to be made and which will only increase our bookings and event revenue going forward.

Utilities are our biggest expenditure and we have some plans to look at projects such as solar panels to offset this.

In summary, we have had an eventful and really productive 2025-26 year and the prospects for an even better one this year bode well.

Which leaves me just to say another big thank you to all committee members and to all that support the Village Hall and continue to help us achieve our goal of providing a great venue for community activities. It is an asset that deserves to be well used and enjoyed.

Thank You

Nigel Hill

### **11.5.26 Annual report for the CSNoC Annual Parish Meeting**

#### **Normanton on Cliffe CHURCHYARD FUND**

Bank balance at the last meeting in May 2025 was **£355.07**. Petty cash of **£144** which I had been holding, was paid into the account on 26.9.25, making a total of **£499.07** (Sept 2025)

Unfortunately, bank account charges are no longer free, and these have been charged at £4.25 pcm from July 2025 **£369.48** has been used to replace the two church spotlights and timer.

Taking into account the charges and lighting repairs, the bank balance today is **£87.09** (statement attached FYI). I am in two minds about closing this account, (since the PC are funding the mowing but this could change in the future) So, on the one hand, it needs to be topped up by £4.25 per month to stay static, and, on the other, even if the balance is low, I feel it might be wise for us in Normanton to maintain a community account for the village, in case it's needed in future. Happy to accept your thoughts?

#### **Maintenance April 2025 to March 2026**

Huge thanks to the Parish Council for agreeing to fund the mowing x 12 by a professional contractor for last year and for agreeing to continue the funding for this current year 26/27

#### **Volunteer Tidy up**

The last tidy up was completed on 1.11.25 where I was able, with many volunteers from the village, and trailer from Tim Ransome, to prune, strim, weed, clear the path and tend the roses.

#### **The Normanton Lawnmower**

I am very pleased to say that the Normanton lawnmower was returned by John Scott last week. I have reiterated to him that if anyone in Normanton, Caythorpe or CS needs to borrow it for any sort of community mowing, then it is available. The lawnmower is now overdue for a service and David Vincent has offered to arrange this. He will continue to use it to mow the grass verges near to the Church

#### **Normanton Church Floodlighting**

The Normanton Churchyard floodlights have been out of action for over 5 years, and the timer was a mystery to all. These were professionally replaced in September 2025 along with a new cover for an outside sensor. They are now fully functioning for all to enjoy during the long winter nights.

**Finally, once again, thanks go to David Vincent who opens and closes the St Nicholas' Church every day of the year, for others to enjoy.**

Jackie Gonzalez

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## **Carlton Scroop Church Report**

St Nicholas' Church, Carlton Scroop is a Festival Church, open on a daily basis for private prayer and meditation. Baptisms, weddings and funerals may take place there.

The church and land belongs to the Diocese of Lincoln and is under the day to day care of the Rural Dean and Parochial Church Council. The vergers look after the church and churchyard on a daily basis. The churchyard is supported by LCC's Environmental Department and the Diocese Environmental Department is worked as a God's Acre churchyard affiliated to the national charity, Caring for God's Acre and can be found on the charity's website.

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## **Carlton Scroop and Normanton on Cliffe Social Club**

### **Annual Parish Meeting Report**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026

#### **Committee:**

The Social Club continues to operate with a committee of 2 members.

#### **Membership:**

We currently have no members of the Social Club.

Our previous one regular member no longer uses the Social Club.

We no longer open on a Friday evening, unless specifically requested.

Membership remains at £5.00.

#### **Since the last report:**

#### **Bingo:**

We continue to run Bingo every month. Attendee numbers are still good for this, and we offer cash prizes.

#### **Quiz Nights:**

These are run quarterly and continue to be fairly well attended.

#### **Events:**

We continue to offer the Social Club as the venue for the Community Hub

Pork and Cider Nights (successful yearly event)

We continue to work alongside the Village Hall for Comedy Nights.

#### **General:**

The Social Club is available at minimal cost to hire for Weddings/Christenings/Funerals and other Private Events.

The Club is in a fair financial state and is in good working order. We continue to have an excellent relationship with the Village Hall.

M Watson

Chairman

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### **Hough Annual Councillor Report - May 2026**

Good evening everyone, please accept my apologies for being unable to attend this evening's meeting in person. I would be grateful if this report could be read out to those present on my behalf.

I consider it an honour and pleasure to continue to represent Hough at County Council level, putting politics aside and working to try and do what's best for our local community and our residents'.

Over the past year we have made progress on highways repairs, including potholes, surface dressing and major resurfacing schemes, most notably on the A607. Whilst I have tried hard to prioritise our issues, we are always competing with the rest of Lincolnshire who face similar issues, against the reality of finite funding and resourcing. Please continue to encourage residents to report issues using the Fix My Street tool to ensure issues and incidents are properly logged, prioritised and resolved as quickly as possible.

On flooding and drainage, we have secured additional investigations and maintenance work in the most vulnerable areas, with further improvements planned. It is fantastic to see volunteer residents' using the Rivercare scheme to litter pick and tackle issues of overgrown foliage along our stretch of the Witham.

Speeding and parking continues to be a high priority and I am committed to strengthening enforcement, exploring appropriate traffic calming measures and supporting community speed watch initiatives. There has also been a noted increase in HGV using rat runs through our small villages on unsuitable roads, which I am currently looking at in more detail.

Looking back, the highlights for me and the best results we have achieved in the last year have been where Residents', Parish, District and County Councillors work together with a shared sense of purpose. Looking ahead, I am optimistic and fully committed to our shared goals through building on this constructive engagement and community cohesion. Our greatest strength is our unity.

Thank you for your selfless service and continued vigilance in our community, we need everyone's eyes and ears to help ensure our area remains a safe and well cared for place to live.

I very much look forward to working closely with you all for the good and benefit of our community in the year ahead.

### **Call Outs**

**Hough Fest 2026:** The very successful Hough Fest that local residents organised last year is back in 2026 (flyer attached). It is shaping up to be a great event with lots of confirmed craft stalls and will be a great opportunity for local businesses, community groups and residents to come together and

share an afternoon of live music and entertainment. Your support to promote this event in your area would be welcomed.

**Local Government Reorganisation (LGR):** At the end of last week, LCC hosted a visit from the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to discuss our proposal for Local Government Reorganisation in Greater Lincolnshire. We were able to show how our model would work in practice - being able to offer strong services over our large county, but with local input, knowledge and delivery. We reinforced that our model would simplify council services, reduce duplication and offer greater investment in priorities that matter to our residents. Having finished their consultation exercise, MHCLG are now looking at all the proposed models for LGR in Greater Lincolnshire before taking a decision. They have also been visiting district councils to discuss their proposals too.

We have been told that every area is taken on a case by case basis as to what the best model is deemed to be, and we're expecting to hear a decision from the government in early July. For more information, see:

<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/lincolnshire/local-government-reorganisation>

Best regards,

Ken

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**District Councillor Peter Stephens**

Councillor Stephens delivered an oral report and spoke about the forthcoming unification of county and district councils. He also spoke about the proliferation of HMO's in the district due to closure of hotels previously used to house asylum seekers.

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## **5. PERSONAL REPRESENTATIONS**

A resident raised the issue of a hedgerow fire bordering a Newark Lane property, and the blocked drains in the village needing attention to prevent surface flooding.

Another resident wished to remind parishioners of the Village Hall book exchange, which takes place every Saturday morning between 11am and midday, with refreshments available.

Close of meeting: The Chairman of the Parish Council thanked those present for attending.

## **Carlton Scroop and Normanton Parish Charities, 2025**

The parish charities were first established by gifts from community-minded residents over 250 years ago, to help those in hardship. Today the charity owns a small parcel of land between Main Road and Newark Lane, split into 4 plots which are rented out and which generate an annual income in excess of £1,200. In recent years the land has yielded some firewood from tree maintenance and logs have been delivered free to 3 households in the villages. In addition to the land, the charity holds cash and investments valued at c£25,000, which in 2025 generated an additional income of c£760. Despite regular advertising, the charity continues to see limited enquiry for help and in 2025 our sole gift was £500 to the Ancaster & Caythorpe GP Surgery Major Equipment Trust, although we have made one household gift this year. The charity trustees are volunteers and give their time without charge, the operating expenses are Occupiers Liability insurance (as a landowner) and D&O Insurance (including legal expenses cover) for the trustees, which amount to some £550. For & on behalf of the trustees FTTB D.Sheard JP, Chairman and Treasurer

### **Community Hub**

In 2022 the charity trustees agreed to underwrite the introduction of a regular free community lunch, which has become the Community Hub. This private volunteer-led activity has always covered its costs through donations, and the charity has not contributed to this activity. Surplus donations have been gifted to local and national charities, including Help the Aged, Pancreatic Cancer Care, the RAF Benevolent Fund, Carlton Scroop Village Hall & Social Club, Kesteven Rideability, the Grantham Foodbank and Grantham Passage.